

March 19, 2012

Worship Services

March 21, 2012

"Earth Vespers: Mid-week Spiritual Service"

Meg Soens, Acting Minister

7:30-8:30 PM

Please plan to join us for this very special mid-week spiritual service!



Join us for this nature-focused evening of spiritual reflection, ritual, and community connection. This meditative service is a perfect way to explore your own earth-based spirituality and connect to the wisdom of the natural world through readings, music, meditation, and silences. Why not bring a friend?

March 25, 2012

"Listening"

Meg Soens, Acting Minister

9:15 AM and 11:00 AM

Unitarian Universalists place a high value on beauty, especially natural beauty, and on the individual, so we tend to be creative and prize self-expression. However, listening is beautiful in its own way, too and is at the root of love and tolerance and civility. What does listening really involve, and how can we learn to do a better job? Music: 9:15 AM, Bill Grace, vocals and Alex Gordon, piano; 11:00 AM UUCR Choir

Coffee Hour:

9:15 AM Needed

11:00 AM Needed

Altar Flowers:

Needed

Welcome Table:

9:15 AM Dru Wood-Beckwith

11:00 AM Kitty Craig-Comin

Ushers:

9:15 AM Trish Bechtel and Ann Fisher

11:00 AM Leslie Lemerise and Beverly Everett

April 1, 2012

"Why Jesus Went To Jerusalem"

Rev. Frank Clarkson

9:15 AM and 11:00 AM

April 1 is Palm Sunday, the day that commemorates Jesus entering Jerusalem with his disciples to celebrate Passover. It's the beginning of Holy Week, which marks Jesus' last days and the events that lead up to Easter. The sermon will explore why Jesus undertook this difficult and risky journey. How might this story inform our own lives, and help us in the living of our days?

The Rev. Clarkson has been serving as minister of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Haverhill since August, 2008. Before pursuing the ministry, Rev. Clarkson worked as a freelance commercial photographer. Prior to serving the UU Church in Haverhill, he served as the Assistant Minister at the North Parish of North Andover.

Coffee Hour:

9:15 AM Janee Tichy and Derek Puff

11:00 AM Needed

Altar Flowers:

Dru Wood-Beckwith

Welcome Table:

9:15 AM Needed

11:00 AM Needed

Ushers:

9:15 AM Theo Noell and Kathleen Sheehan

11:00 AM Needed

Schedule of Worship Services

Sundays

9:15 and 11:00 AM

Children's Classes at 9:15 AM only; infant and toddler child care at both services.

Our full service schedule can be found on our [Upcoming Services page](#).

Worship Notes

Easter Plant Orders Close In One Week!

WANTED: EASTER FLOWER ORDERS:

Can you help beautify our Sanctuary for our Easter services? The office reports that we have just 5 plants only to decorate our chancel. The greenhouse orders close in one week. Ordering is easy! Just send a slip of paper or an email to the church office with your name and a check for \$ 14.00 for each plant ordered. Specify how many tulips, daffodils, or azaleas you are requesting. Write "Easter plants" on your check notation line. Take the plants home that you specifically ordered after the second Easter service on Sunday, April 8. You may mail your check, place it in the collection plate, or insert it into the mail room safe. For your ordering convenience, we also have bright purple order sheets in the atrium at a special sign up table. Look for the beautiful azalea, tulip and daffodil plants at an ordering table set up for this Sunday's coffee hour.

Sunday, March 25, 2012

BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY!



Did you know that 85% of the people who ever visit a Unitarian Universalist Congregation do so because someone invited them to visit? Don't keep the warm and welcoming community here at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading a secret. Why not share our Unitarian Universalist faith with someone you know? Sunday, March 25 is "BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY." Acting Minister, Meg Soens and the Worship Arts Ministry are creating a service perfect for first time visitors. Please extend an invitation to someone you know.

Sunday, March 25, 2012

Tidbits and Tour - Come Join Us!

Are you new to the church? Join Meg Soens, Acting Minister, and Amy Burton, our Member Services and Volunteer Coordinator, for a short introduction to Unitarian Universalism and a quick tour of our church campus. This thirty-minute mini-introduction will give you a chance to meet Meg and Amy and ask any questions you might have. No registration necessary. We meet at the front of the church after each service.

Traditional Passover Seder April 7, 2012

AN INVITATION TO A TRADITIONAL PASSOVER SEDER ALL ARE WELCOME

Rabbi Bart Perlman will hold a traditional Passover Seder at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading Fellowship Hall on Saturday, April 7, 2012, from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM. Doors will open at 6:00 PM. This event will include a full Passover meal. The meal will be a roast chicken dinner with salad and matzo ball soup as appetizers, vegetable, and roast potato ; also several Jewish side dishes such as potato kugel, chopped liver, gefilte fish etc.; followed by macarons, brownies and other Passover desserts. The meal cost is \$ 27.00 per person; half price for a child who eats as a child; full price for a child who eats as an adult. To reserve a place at the seder table please contact Louis Damelin *by Wednesday April 4th* at loudamelin@rcn.com This RSVP deadline is necessary in order to prepare for the purchase of the full Passover meal. All are enthusiastically welcome.

Rev. Tim Currently on Sabbatical through May 6, 2012

Rev. Tim is currently on his sabbatical through May 6, 2012. He will return to the office on May 7, 2012. During this time Meg Soens is our Acting Minister and can be reached at 781.944.0494, extension 101 for non-emergencies. Meg's emergency pastoral phone line is 781.850.3307.

Caring and Sharing Coordinator

March 2012

Caring and Sharing Coordinator for Month
The Caring and Sharing coordinator for March is Nancy. You can reach Nancy by clicking this [LINK](#).



Director of Faith Development's Messages

- 3/19/12 What Kind of a World?



What kind of world do you want?

This a question that was posed in the form of a 2006 pop song, "World," by John Ondrasik and the band Five for Fighting. The melody poses vignettes of human life driven by deep emotions and ideals with a compelling hook for a refrain –

...be careful what you wish for...history starts now...

As we hear the spoken and musical refrains from last Sunday's Commitment Worship, each of us can mull over our own response to this question of what **kind of world we want**. To what and to whom are we committed? How do our commitments manifest as history in the making? Last Sunday's worship ended, as it sometimes does, with the congregation holding hands. Through the twists and turns of hand clasping, we were reminded that UUCR is a community of people with a commitment to each other, and that commitment is a religious one. We ask and expect a lot of each other. While this can feel overwhelming, is it possible for us to continually remind ourselves and each other that it is an honor to be counted on? When we are needed, we belong.

Religions are a collection of beliefs, world views, cultural systems, morals, values, ethics, and expectations that affect our ideas about the cosmos and human

nature. Religions create places of belonging. Our liberal religion has a unique and rich narrative, an unmistakable and bright icon, and bold traditions that respond to who we are. This religion – Unitarian Universalism – gives our life meaning and helps us to understand our human nature.

Using some of inspired language from this year's budget drive, I share some questions that our youth are contemplating?

How do you see yourself as a Unitarian Universalist and not just "a good person"?
How does being a part of this faith community help to imagine ways that you will tend to our compassionate community and tend our precious world?
How do Unitarian Universalist values help you to imagine ways of being in the world AND to make it a better place?

Consider your responses to these questions and then share your response with someone.... anyone! Such a conversation is a sacred one.

What kind of world do you want?
Think anything, let's start at the start
Build a masterpiece
Be careful what you wish for
History starts now...

In faith,
Anne

President's Messages - Communication/Collaboration



Here at UUCR, there are various avenues through which the congregation and the Governing Board communicate with one another throughout the course of the year about vision, goals and priorities. While these avenues are effective, the need for additional collaboration and communication between the board and the congregation has been on my mind since I assumed the Presidency last July and even throughout last year when I served as the President-in-Training under Clyde Hardin's able tutelage. That's why I have been writing to you weekly, to increase the flow of information from the board and to invite back congregational input. So when I came across a discussion about this topic in a book the board has just finished reading, I read it with great interest and afterwards felt reassured that our dynamic is typical for churches of our size and excited about new possibilities presented.

Before telling you about that discussion, I do want to highlight existing communication avenues that provide an opportunity for board/congregation discourse, namely:

- Bi-Annual Church Business Meetings in May and October when members vote on the budget, incoming board members and previous meeting minutes and receive the annual reports.
- Governing Board Meetings are held on the first Monday of every month in Loring 101 and are open to anyone who wishes to attend, although we follow a pre-set agenda. Our meeting minutes for this year will soon be published on the website and we'll begin posting them each month as they become available.
- Program Council allows for committee chairs to come together in conversation facilitated by the board's V.P. of Programs and are often attended by other board members.
- Finance Council allows for those interested in the finances of the church to join in that discussion facilitated by the V.P. of Finance and are often attended by other board members.
- The weekly electronic newsletter includes columns from the board president and minister which update the congregation on the progress and decisions of the board and call for input when needed.

- Announcements made at service on Sunday morning are a great way to reach a lot of people all at once, although this option must be used sparingly to maintain the sanctity of the worship space.
- Coffee Hour presents an opportunity for informal mingling and Q&A between board members and the congregation.

I came across the discussion of communication dynamics that peaked my interest in the book "Moving On From Church Folly Lane" by the Rev. Robert T. Latham. The discussion highlighted for me leadership dynamics being played out here at UUCR and got me thinking about the advantages and challenges of small-group leadership.

Just to back up a bit, when a church is small, it is possible to have every committee and group represented by a member on the board. As a church grows, this becomes harder and harder to manage because if every committee and group is represented by a member, the board becomes so large as to be unwieldy and ineffective. Meetings tend to run very long and tend to focus on the details of committee work instead of moving the mission of the church forward. In the worst cases, the board becomes nothing more than individual groups vying for their piece of the resource pie to the detriment of the church as a whole. An effective solution is to separate out committees from the board by empowering them to make decisions about the work for which they are responsible. This reduces the board to a manageable size and allows for the board to focus on vision and leadership through policy.

About 7 years ago, our governance styles changed to a small-group, policy-focused model to best support our size. While this change was very important and inevitable, it does mean that there are some representation and communication challenges to contend with. Without the presence of committee chairs on the board, their voice, leadership and engagement can be lost and the board can have a mounting challenge to lead the organization forward because they must work hard to bring everyone up to speed on their ideas and plans.

This phenomenon is described by Latham on pages 108-109 of his book: "When a board decides to move to a policy governance model it further divests itself of specified representation of [committee] facets. This divestiture requires even more leadership outside the board [through empowered committees]. Although

this leadership is connected to the board through mission and policy, it is self-driven. Thus, an even greater delineation is created between the leadership facets of the [committees] and the board. If the board wishes the [committee leadership] to feel itself as part of a team and to imbibe of those visions that will instruct the congregation's future, then it must ... make a shift in perspective, [or] it will find its time and energies being consumed by the necessity of inviting this leadership into a team spirit and enlisting the leadership to own the visions the board has created. Moreover, it may double its energy and time output in trying to accomplish this task and still not be successful. In brief, the board of a Program Congregation, acting alone as a leadership team, will only increase its own workload".

Latham goes on to suggest some mechanisms by which the board can engage committee chairs in the visioning and leadership of the church. Some of these are already in place at UUCR, such as the Program Council and Finance Council. One idea that caught my imagination was an All Church Retreat, whereby at the beginning of the church year, church leaders (which I interpret to mean: any church member or friend who is interested in attending) would gather together for a day of facilitated group effort to envision the work of the church for the coming year based on the church's long-range-plan, tease out the top priorities for that year and sketch out an implementation plan.

What do you think of this idea? Is this an event you'd be interested in attending? What kinds of questions would like to see the congregation discuss? What other ideas do you have to increase the coupling of board and congregation? I'd love to hear from you.

Best Regards,

Tracy

Website News - Member to Member

This is the fourth in a series of news articles providing insight in the technical aspects of our church's new website and associated services.

Member to Member is a service that allows members and friends of the church to keep in touch with each other regarding non-church matters. Members and friends can now email their messages to membertomember@uureading.org or to amonguus@uureading.org and those messages will be distributed by email to subscribers of this new mailing list. These messages will be processed during off-hours and at least 3 times per week to ensure that they don't interfere with other regularly scheduled bulk email distributions.

If you would like to receive Member to Member email, go to the online newsletter, find the box on the right labeled Mailing List Subscription, be sure that Member to Member is checked, enter your Name and E-mail address, and then click Subscribe. To get to the online newsletter so that you can subscribe to Member to Member, click [HERE](#).

If you are just joining Member to Member, or for any other reason wish to review older distributions, you can do so by clicking the Member to Member link in the Mailing List Subscription box. If you would like to view older distributions now, click [HERE](#).

Adult Enrichment

Important Adult Enrichment: Register Today for Hungry for Change
- April 12-May 17, 2012

Registration is open for this compelling adult enrichment scheduled to begin April 12.

Overview

Hungry for Change explores the true meaning of the phrase "you are what you eat." This 6-week discussion course challenges participants to examine their roles, not only as consumers of food, but also as creators -- of food, of systems, and of the world we all live in. Each session includes readings, short assignments and accompanying discussion questions that address the impact of individual food choices on a range of issues, including ecosystem health, the treatment of factory and farm workers, and the global economy. Hungry for Change helps participants commit to lasting change by developing and sharing personal Action Plans with each session.

Purpose:

- To explore the interconnected nature of food systems and our relationships to them.
- To examine the impact our food choices have on our health, the health of others and the health of our planet.
- To consider the ethical and political implications of our current food system and our personal food choices.

Length: Six sessions

Dates:

Thursday evenings

7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

April 12 - May 17

Capacity: Space is limited to 12 participants.

Fees: fee for the course covers the discussion book.

Facilitator: Tricia Schwartz

Don't Let These Adult Enrichments Pass You By!

Did you know that we have an entire rich line up of adult enrichments planned for our second semester at the UUCR?

Enjoy a review of our entire Adult Enrichment offering for our second semester.

Unitarian Universalist Basics: An Introduction to Our Faith - May 19, 2012

Overview

Are you new to the church? Would you like to meet other folks who are new as well? Would you like to learn more about Unitarian Universalism? Do you have questions about what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist? Are you thinking about becoming a member of UUCR? Then UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST BASICS is just the thing for you. Join our minister Rev. Tim for this engaging introduction to our faith. Registration is required, please call or [email the church office](mailto:church@uucr.org) (781-944-0494) or sign up on Sunday at coffee hour.

Facilitator: Rev. Tim Kutzmark

Date: Saturday, May 19 – 8:30 AM-12:45 PM

This condensed one-day Saturday class will include kid-friendly breakfast, bagels and coffee for adults, and CHILD CARE to make it easier for parents with young children to attend the UU Basics class. This class will be led by Rev. Tim Kutzmark, our minister.

Get Involved News

Chalice Circles

Chalice Circles - Open Chair

Our Chalice circles have begun, and there is always an Open Chair for someone new!

Chalice Circles are small (8-10 participants) groups, led by trained facilitators, that meet twice monthly for 1 ½ hours. The format of the group consists of a brief reading, a check in among the members, a longer reading, and a discussion of members' reactions/reflections/thoughts about the readings.

Topics over the years have ranged from world religions to more personal topics such as friendship, community, nature, etc. The Chalice Circle is a more intimate place to get to know one another at the same time as providing the opportunity to explore meaningful topics with other members of our community.

The Circles have started and will go to the end of the Church year in June.

There are lots of openings in the following Chalice Circles:

- Sunday 7:00 - 8:30 PM
- Tuesday 4:30 – 6:00 PM
- Wednesday 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
- Thursday 3:30 – 4:30 PM (phone Chalice Circle for those unable to attend a meeting)
- Saturday 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

You can [register online](#) or by contacting [Jean Hanson](#).

Creative Hands and Caring Hearts Group (CHACH)

Creative Hands and Caring Hearts Group (CHACH)

The **CHACH** (Creative **H**ands **A**nd **C**aring **H**earts) We meet once a month on the first Wednesday of each month. Our starting time is still 7:30 and we end around 9:30. We will continue to meet at the home of Sharyn Taitz at 1443 Main St. in Reading. We are an open and welcoming multi-generational group of women

who love to create with our hands. Any craft, art or skill that can be toted to a meeting is welcomed. If you are interested in joining us, please contact facilitator Sharyn Taitz or simply drop in to any scheduled meeting. Please contact Sharyn Taitz for more information.

Yours in creativity, Sharyn Taitz, CHACH Facilitator.

[Contact Form](#)

Last Tuesday of the Month Book Club

[LTOM Book Club meets March 27, 2012](#)

The March meeting of the LTOM Book club will be held at the home of Nancy Morley, 1005 Main Street, Reading, on March 27th at 1:30 pm. The book selection is The Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern. All are welcome!

Mom's Group

[Mom's Group](#)

The UUCR Mom's Group will have three different offerings this year for mothers of the church to get to know one another.

Mom's Circle (registration in September is required).

The Moms Circle is a group of women in a mothering role who meet on a regular basis in an atmosphere of safety and support for the purpose of engaging in facilitated discussions exploring issues of interest to the group and providing an avenue for personal growth, spiritual development, and community connections. Meetings are twice a month on Sunday evenings in the home of one of the members. Meetings are facilitated by members of the UUCR church community and meetings run similarly to Chalice Circle Meetings.

Social Events (open to all)

Throughout the year we will be organizing social events for all mothers to attend. Dates will be announced in advance.

Mother's Book Club (open to all)

Throughout the year we will be having at least three different book discussions. You are not required to attend all meetings. Books will be announced in advance.

If any of these offerings interest you, please contact Sara Ortins for more information (781-944-2740)

Coordinator: Sara Ortins

Sundays Twice a month, 7:30-9:00 PM

Here is the Mom's Group Schedule for the remainder of this Church Year. All meetings are 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM unless noted. Please contact Sara Ortins or Alison Friedman for the meeting location.

- 4/1 Chalice Circle Mom's Group Meeting
- 4/29 Chalice Circle Mom's Group Meeting
- 5/6: Book group, 101 Loring House
- 5/20 Chalice Circle Mom's Group Meeting
- 6/9: Family BBQ, home of Rebecca Higgins, Time to be determined

Social Action

[Interview with Mandy Neff re Immigration Curriculum](#)

Saturday, March 10, at 4 p.m. (or afterwards), listen to <http://www.blogtalkradio.com/revcarltones> and hear an interview with Mandy Neff, UUCR member and First Parish in Cambridge Director of Religious Education, speaking about her new immigration curriculum for children, "With Justice and Compassion." Rev. Carlton's ongoing show, "Journey Toward Phoenix," is a six-month production for UUs concerned about immigration issues and/or preparing for Justice General Assembly in Arizona, June 20-24.

Social Action

Running for Your Rights: UUCR Marathon Runner Supports UUSC



From Mark Cronin-Golomb: I am excited that I will be participating in the **116th running of the Boston Marathon** on behalf of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) on April 16, 2012. This is my second year running the marathon, and my first year running in support of UUSC!

UUSC is a human-rights and social-justice organization working in more than 20 countries around the world, including right here in the United States. To learn more about this organization and its vital work, visit uuscs.org. I am sure you will see why I have

chosen to support this wonderful cause.

I have a fundraising goal of \$ 2,500. If just 25 people support me at \$ 100 each, I will meet my goal! And if you donate \$ 100 or more, I will list your name on the back of my marathon shirt as a mile sponsor. Of course, your contribution of any amount will be greatly appreciated.

To support me, please visit

<http://www.crowdrise.com/runforjustice/fundraiser/markcroningolomb>

and make your gift today. Or if you prefer, you can give me cash or a check made out to UUSC.

Consider your sponsorship a proxy for running the Boston Marathon. **I will run the 26.2 miles, suffer the blisters and the anguish of Heartbreak Hill, and you get to provide compassionate support to the people being oppressed around the world.** That's a pretty good deal! Thanks in advance for your support.

Sincerely,
Mark

Social Action

Immigration Rights Postcard-Signing: Sun., March 25.

If you'd like to make your voice heard in behalf of immigrant rights, please stop by the Social Action table at coffee hours on Sunday, March 25, and sign a postcard. Here's what it's all about:

On Saturday, March 3, UUCR was host to a workshop on immigration rights presented by UU Mass Action. More than ten Mass Bay District churches were represented at the workshop, and together we previewed the Frontline documentary "Lost in Detention," which paints a stark picture of how individual civil and human rights are being violated in the execution of policies at both the national and state level. We also learned that the struggle for immigrant rights has become an even more important issue for Massachusetts now that anti-immigrant forces are working to get an Arizona-like bill passed in our state.

We began to strategize about how UUs might be able to work together to stand on the side of love with immigrants in Massachusetts and work against such a bill.



One thing that you can do immediately is to sign and send a postcard to the Middlesex County sheriff and let him know that you are opposed to the current policies and tactics of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office (ICE), which is in the business of finding and deporting undocumented people regardless of their family situations here in the States.

UUCR's Social Action Team has printed UU Mass Action postcards for you to sign and will make them available in Fellowship Hall after services. If you have any questions about the issue or about what's happening at the UUA's General Assembly in Phoenix AZ this year (Justice GA--focused on racial, economic, and especially migratory justice), feel free to talk with Tony Fisher, Pat McGovern, or Mandy Neff.

More News

Save The Date! Ferry Beach Weekend Scheduled For June 1st - June 3rd

This year our church retreat weekend at the UUA conference center in Saco, Maine on the ocean will be held June 1, 2 & 3. This is a time for all members, and friends, of all ages of UUCR to spend a weekend just socializing with no pressing church business. Activities for children and adults are planned but if you prefer to sit and read a book the porch has comfy rockers. Perhaps you'd like to take a nature walk, there are trails across the street, or fly a kite or organize a pick up game of softball. Saturday night there will be talent/no talent show so get your act together. Stage fright, we need an audience too. Dates of registration will be announced soon.

Our Larger Community

Time To Register For Sawyer Nursery School



Spring is the time of year when families of preschoolers begin making plans for nursery school in the fall. If you or someone you know (friend, neighbor, relative, acquaintance) has a child who will be at least 2.9 years old by August 31, 2012, do urge them to consider UUCR's own Sawyer Nursery School. Sawyer is a flourishing little operation that celebrated its 50th anniversary last March. It offers a Tuesday/Thursday morning program for 3 year olds, a Monday/Wednesday/Friday morning program for 4 and 5 year olds, and the option of a weekly 'Lunch Bunch'

extended day for all. It is a happy place for children, led by experienced, well-trained and loving staff members. To schedule a tour, contact school Director Deb Harvey at 781-944-9581 or sawyer_nursery_school@verizon.net.

Ivy Chord Concerts

Ellis Paul on Saturday, April 14, 2012 at 8:00PM



Ellis Paul

Charismatic performances, approachable style and beautifully rendered story-songs

Saturday, April 14, 2012

8:00 pm

Tickets:

\$ 25 general admission

\$ 23 students/seniors

[Buy tickets for this concert online.](#)

Read what the press has to say about Ellis Paul:

"There are artists who are good at their craft. There are artists who have developed and maximized their talent to a high degree. Then there are those fewer artists who seem simply to have been blessed with skills that outshine most others. Ellis Paul is one of those." —John Ziegler, Duluth News Tribune

"He's one of those few artists who can connect to the audience, making everyone in the crowd feel like he or she is actually being performed to. The sound was spot-on and the set list included some new songs from a forthcoming children's album some of which showcased subtle political lyrics. However, even Paul's songs about dragonflies still managed to sound beautiful and utterly heartbreaking." —Adam Arrigo, Northeast Performer